

Dear Jason ---- please support the bill that would provide the same liability protections to municipalities that is currently afforded state and private landowners. I am a resident of West Hartford (38 Castlewood Road) and utilize the West Hartford Reservoir frequently for hiking, mountain biking, running, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. It is a fantastic resource and one of the reasons we purchased our house so close to it. As a society, we need to make such resources available for our residents for their continued health and welfare. We also need to continue to encourage physical activity especially given the dire trend of obesity and inactivity. I think it is also important to maintain an element of personal responsibility in our daily lives. Every accident should not be an invitation to an exorbitant verdict, especially when the landowner has little or no negligence. The recent West Hartford Reservoir verdict of close to \$3 million is a good example of a situation in which someone should have enough common sense not to ride into a clearly closed gate. Thank you for your consideration.

William Thompson

Dear Environment Committee Members:

Please give SB 831 on recreational liability your favorable consideration. No matter the season, I spend easily a dozen hours a week on the trails at the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford. There are great ways to enjoy it even with this crazy amount of snow on the ground. This MDC reservoir property is such a tremendous asset to the region that while house hunting, my husband and I specifically focused on buying a house where we had easy access to "the rez."

It's in the public and economic interest to limit liability for recreational use of the property at the MDC reservoir and other places like it. We need to encourage, not discourage, physical activity and appreciation for our natural environment, and we certainly need to encourage personal responsibility. Most of us who are on the trails regularly believe we assume a certain amount of risk for our own actions. We believe we'd have no one to blame but ourselves for careening into a huge yellow gate that's been there, and routinely closed, for the better part of 30 years.

What's more, Connecticut's network of trails and larger state parks are a tremendous asset. Being most familiar with those around greater Hartford, I think this region could be a weekend getaway destination for outdoor enthusiasts and muscle-powered sports lovers. City-dwellers from New York, Boston or Providence just might come here for a weekend of hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. They might stay at B&Bs, visit our restaurants, or take in some music or a play after a good day outdoors. Just a thought!

Again, I urge you to give SB 831 your most favorable consideration and to champion its passage through both chambers of the legislature.

Thank you --

Kelly Kennedy
West Hartford, CT
Kelly.kennedy@think-plan-do.net

Honorable members of the General Assembly:

I am a native of Greenwich, Connecticut, which is fortunate to have many acres of municipal parks and open space, along with an impressive number deed restricted as open space, on which there are miles of well-used trails for walking and hiking, some for horse-back riding, and a small amount for non-motorized multiple-uses. Much of this acreage has been preserved due to the generosity of former or current residents, and is maintained through volunteer efforts either for private organizations such as the Greenwich Land Trust and Greenwich Audubon, or for, and in conjunction with the municipality itself, for the benefit of residents and visitors. As we live in an increasingly litigious society, the Town has been taken to court or threatened, and has become increasingly cautious

VAD5573@aol.com

Please protect the rights to access! A significant portion of your state's income comes from visitors like me who love to hike and bike and explore CT lands.

This bill will restore protections for Municipalities that existed for 25 years prior to the 1995 Conway v Wilton case

The bill will ensure that the same limit on liability afforded by state law to state, private owners, utilities and corporations who make their land open to the free use and enjoyment of the public is likewise extended to municipal owners of land.

thank you,

Bob Shalit
350 Water St.
Keene, NH 03431

I strongly urge the Connecticut General Assembly to act now to restore the same limit on liability afforded by state law to state, private owners, utilities and corporations who make their land open to the free use and enjoyment of the public is likewise extended to municipal owners of land. Recreation access is something that we must ensure for ourselves and future generations.

Thank You

John H. Roy, Jr.
18 Pheasant Run Road
Stonington, CT 06378

Brian Richard LeBlanc
235 Hawks Nest Circle
Middletown, CT 06457

Bill Number: sb831

I strongly support the S.B. 831, An Act Concerning Municipal Liability for Recreational Activities on Certain Open Space Lands. I want to thank the Committee for it work on this important matter. I urge the Committee to vote favorably on this bill.

Thank you

I am writing a short email in support of the bill to limit liability for municipalities that open land for recreation use.

I am the owner of Central Wheel Bicycle Shop. Central Wheel is located a few hundred yards from the route 4 entrance of the West Hartford Reservoir.

Keeping the West Hartford Reservoir would continue to help a small business grow in Farmington.

- jeff

Central Wheel
62 Farmington Ave
Farmington CT 06032
860-677-7010

Jason,

Please support the bill to limit liability for municipalities.

I am a fairly new resident to Connecticut—about three years--and I have to say that the West Hartford Reservoir is one of the distinctive features of this area and makes West Hartford attractive to residents and visitors alike. The recreational opportunities there are unlimited! I believe every city and town should have a place like the Reservoir for people to enjoy the outdoors. It is absolutely critical that we maintain these resources for our own use and for our future generations. After all, what is more important than our health and the health of our children?

Thanks for your consideration,
-Adam Arnold